

Agency Information

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Document Information

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FROM : LA
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 10/16/1941
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SUBJECTS :

HERBERT BIBERMAN
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
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OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : MEMO; ENCLOSURE

212a

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October 16, 1941

Classified by SPB May 1942
Declassify at 10 AM CT

KRM:CJ

THE DIRECTOR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

RE: HERBERT HIBERNAN, DECLASSIFIED BY SPB May 1942
JOHN HOWARD LAWSON, ON 10-16-41 (See)
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SOVIET
RELATIONS.

We have just received a teletype from the Los Angeles office indicating that Herbert Biberman and John Howard Lawson, concerning whom you have been previously advised, held a secret conference today with Thomas L. Harris, National Secretary of the American Council on Soviet Relations. The subject matter of the conference between these three men concerned an intensive organizational drive to establish locals of the American Council on Soviet Relations in various key cities of the United States, for the purpose of distributing propaganda and the raising of funds. (f)(a)

One of the important items of the conversation dealt with the necessity of providing some sponsorship of Russian propaganda in the United States, which, in a deceptive manner, will attract influential persons of national and local prominence. (f)(a)

The Los Angeles office has advised that it has obtained documentary evidence pointing out that a program is to be arranged in such a way that -

INDEXED FILED
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"Participation will be no embarrassment to people who have to be careful of their positions."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Information in the possession of the Los Angeles office indicates that Corliss Lamont, the son of a Morgan partner, will make major addresses in various cities of the United States where organizational plans will be perfected. The document referred to by the Los Angeles office is signed by Thomas L. Harris and is addressed to Ernest Dawson, a prominent Communist in Los Angeles, concerning whom the Los Angeles office has documentary evidence of his membership in the Communist Party.

Original cannot be located
and is not on record. When
original is received in Files
Division it will be filed either
with this copy or may be given
a new serial.

Off
10/16/41 6X1

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Memorandum for the Director

-2-

Information is available to the effect that Dawson traveled in the Soviet Union and the document, referred to above, indicates that Thomas L. Harris met Mr. and Mrs. Dawson in the Soviet Union. The Los Angeles office has advised that the entire contents of the document clearly disclose that the American Council on Soviet Relations is a major front organization.

The Bureau's files disclose that Thomas L. Harris was a former adviser on religion at Harvard University. He has been associated with the anti-Hitler movement in the United States and spoke at a "Smash Hitler" rally in Madison Square Garden on Wednesday evening, June 25, 1941, at New York City. He is the National Secretary of the American Council on Soviet Relations. During the heyday of the American Peace Mobilization, he was on the roster of the Speakers Bureau of the National Committee of the American Peace Mobilization. [He is reported by Confidential Informant Anna Addison, who is Miss Adriane Duffy, as "probably a member of the Communist Party." *(L)(u)*

During the Spanish Civil War Thomas L. Harris was on the Philadelphia Committee of the American Friends of Spanish Democracy. In his work on behalf of the American Council on Soviet Relations Harris has been identified with such outstanding radicals as

Theodore Drieser
Anna Louise Strong
Morris Engle (former President of Commonwealth College)
Corliss Lamont
Jessica Smith
Franklin Tolson
and others.

Harris is the author of a number of books, one of which is called "Unholy Pilgrimage," which deals with his trips to the Soviet Union.

Harris is the editor of a pro-Soviet monthly publication styled "News Survey," the official organ of the American Council on Soviet Relations.

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